



Tuesday 25th January 2021

The Trinity Centre

7pm

Present

Cllrs Wood, Ashley-Higgins, Allan, Briggs, Cairns, Cooper, Cummins, Ellis, Griffin, Horrocks, Jolley, Mosson, Parmar, Pears, Pocock, Puri, Raut, Simper, K Ward and S Ward.

In Attendance

Olive O'Sullivan—Chief Executive Officer, Jan Rowley-Regeneration Programme Director, Mary Watkins-Finance Manager and Jessica Johnson-Community Engagement Officer.

There were fourteen members of the public and two members of the press present.

There were four questions submitted for public question time.

John Heywood from Eco Sutton raised concerns around the Aldi planning application, in particular the sustainability section and risk to the transport interchange if Brassington Avenue were to remain a one-way road and asked how the Town Council and Town Centre Regeneration Partnership would deal with planning applications that run counter to the Town Centre Masterplan.

The CEO reported that there appeared to be misapprehension that any individual or company should only be allowed to submit a planning application which complies with relevant policies otherwise the authorities should refuse to deal with it, which is not the case. Planning applications are submitted to Birmingham City Council (BCC) as the statutory planning authority and BCC will take a decision on each application in due course, taking into consideration any comments made. The Planning and Highways Committee will consider their response to the planning application at their next meeting, so it would be inappropriate to comment at this stage.

Tony Whitehead from Our Town asked if the Town Council remains firmly committed to implementing the Masterplan and if the Town Council supported the view that the Aldi planning application is non-compliant and should be withdrawn.

Cllr S Ward responded that the Town Council is committed to the Masterplan. Council had taken the lead in developing the Masterplan, bringing together interested parties and that it had been adopted by Birmingham City Council as a supplementary planning document. As per the response to the previous question, it would be inappropriate to comment on the Aldi planning application prior to the Planning and Highways Committee meeting. Cllr S Ward did state that it was a positive move that people are showing interest in investing and developing the Brassington site.

Richard Haynes from Future of Cinema in Sutton Coldfield (FoCiS) asked if the Town Council would consider making an application for the Empire Cinema building to be registered as an Asset of Community Value.

Cllr S Ward responded that the Masterplan isn't just about new buildings and that there are some really special buildings in the town that have an important place in the future of the town. Cllr S Ward suggested that FoCiS could constitute as a group enabling it to make an application to register the asset.

Liz Parry asked to what extent the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership had engaged with Aldi over their planning application and the implications for the masterplan.

The CEO reiterated that it would be inappropriate to comment on the planning application at this time and confirmed that the Aldi site was acquired prior to the Masterplan being adopted. The Town Centre Regeneration Partnership has no status to carry out pre-application discussions with developers.

Liz Parry spoke to welcome the Health and Wellbeing report review and asked Council to consider building relationships with the providers of adult social care services to ensure that their perspective is included in the discussions. Liz also asked the Partnership to consider identifying specific, time limited, achievement targets to provide a focus for partnership working.

Cllr Cairns welcomed Liz onto the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and confirmed that supportive and encouraging discussions about working with social services and the NHS had been discussed by the Partnership. Cllr Cairns suggested that quantifiable next steps could include preventing hospital admissions, with the Partnership working with the integrated care service to enable older people to stay at home rather than be admitted to hospital.

The Mayor asked all present to stand as he paid tribute to Jack Dromey MP.

76 Apologies for Absence

The CEO reported apologies from Cllrs L Allen, Hodgins, Mackey and Scott.

Resolved to accept the apologies.

77 Declarations of Interest

No declarations made.

78 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor reported meeting with Sutton Coldfield Fuschia and Gardening Guild and the Sutton Coldfield Fire Service, who were speaking about the importance of fire safety over the Christmas period.

The Mayor announced that the Community Awards were now open for nominations and encouraged all present to spread the work amongst residents and community groups to submit nominations by the 18th February 2022.

79 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held Monday 13th December 2021 be signed as a true record.

80 Matters Arising

The CEO reported that establishment of an Allotments Sub-Committee had now been approved and asked that, in order to progress the work of this Sub-Committee, the membership be confirmed.

Resolved to appoint Cllrs Ashley-Higgins, Briggs, Cooper, Griffin, K Ward and Wood to the Allotments Sub-Committee.



81 Questions from Members

Cllr Pocock asked Cllr S Ward if anything had ever been done in pursuit of the resolution taken at the Town Council meeting of 28th March 2017 (Minute 192) to explore alternative governance options to the current Town Council and, if so, what the outcome was.

Cllr S Ward responded that the Town Council was a form of Local Government and was working everyday to do what it can to deliver incremental improvements for the people of Sutton Coldfield, to improve their life on a daily basis and on a strategic level. The Town Council was trying to get more powers devolved and had already delivered on the bike scheme, Town Rangers and other projects. He stated that, Cllr Pocock is part of the Town Council, and the Town Council need to work together to deliver for the residents of Sutton Coldfield.

In response to a request from Cllr Pocock for clarification that the Town Council was no longer looking to pursue exploring alternative governance options, Cllr Horrocks replied that Cllr Pocock had contributed to the meeting in March 2017 and is minuted as stating that 'the only way powers could be devolved is with BCC's agreement'. Cllr Horrocks stated that the Council is seeking to do more for the community and urged Cllr Pocock to encourage Birmingham City Council (BCC) to work with the Town Council on full devolution.

Cllr Pocock summed up that the resolution remains policy and the Town Council would work together to explore what alternative governance options are available.

Cllr Pocock asked Cllr S Ward to explain why a cross-party negotiating team had not been established in line with a resolution taken at the Town Council meeting of 13th December 2017 (Minute 108) to 'establish a cross-party negotiating team to take forward the offer from BCC to develop more constructive and effective working relationships' and if this would be put right now.

Cllr S Ward responded that a cross-party negotiating team had been established. The minutes reflected that the cross-party negotiating team would work through the Finance and General Purposes Committee (now Strategy and Resources Committee) and in June 2018 it had been agreed that the Staffing Working Group, whose remit included the cross party negotiation with Birmingham City Council, would become the Strategy Working Group, he added that membership of this group included Cllr Pocock. Cllr Ward talked about his frustration at the time it had taken to negotiate Devolution with Birmingham City Council.

82 Sutton Coldfield Town Centre Masterplan

Jan Rowley gave an update on the delivery of the Sutton Coldfield Town Centre Masterplan.

- [Presentation](#)

Cllr Pears commented that it was really encouraging to see the Masterplan working as a catalyst for regeneration as the number of planning applications submitted around the town centre was increasing.

In response to a question from Cllr Cairns asking if the NHS had been approached to share the work they have been pursuing on mobility and active travel, Jan Rowley confirmed that this had not yet been progressed. There needed to be a balance of having conversations with key stakeholders when the funding for transport works has been secured.

Jan Rowley reported that there was a possibility of setting up an additional Task Group that would look at economy and enterprise. . The TCRP supported that additional and felt it would help look at possible meanwhile use and how this could be negotiated and funded.



Cllr Pocock stated that this was great partnership working and proved that the Town Council and Birmingham City Council could collaborate and work effectively.

In response to a question from Cllr Pocock asking if January 2023 was a realistic timeline to start physical works on the bus interchange, Jan Rowley confirmed that the timeline was indicative and had been established with BCC and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM). In January, it had been confirmed that the Sutton Coldfield Gateway Scheme was included in the final CRSTS Programme 2022-2027 submission. However this submission has been called in for a central Government decision and this will cause some delays. Jan Rowley confirmed that the work to develop Outline Business Cases (OBC) would carry on regardless and that she hoped to being back a revised timeframe in March that would answer the question.

The Mayor thanked Jan for her report.

83 Town Council Health and Wellbeing Report Review

The CEO asked for her thanks to be put on record to Alison Seabrooke for her thorough analysis and description of what in effect is a very complex system and for quickly establishing relationships with key people close to the new and emerging structures.

The CEO reported that in 2018 the Town Council commissioned Alison Seabrooke identify the community engagement and development requirements to support the health and wellbeing of Sutton Coldfield residents. This work highlighted the need to engage residents to inform activities and support them to address their own health and wellbeing priorities and to support the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector to deliver these improvements. In March 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic, stronger partnerships were developed particularly with the Sutton Coldfield Together approach where the Town Council worked with other organisations to respond to local needs. This was further evident in February 2021 when the Town Council worked with the Sutton Coldfield Group Practice to open a vaccination centre in the town, co-ordinating over 300 volunteers.

The Town Council Health and Wellbeing Report Review raises awareness around the proposed arrangements for the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System. This is a complex health system, with several layers of governance. A good knowledge and understanding of the system is important for the Town Council, if the Town Council is to represent the neighbourhood level within the ICS. The Report is relevant not just to the work of the Health and Well Being Partnership but the work programme across each of the Town Council's Committees due to the importance of regeneration, the clean and green agenda, active travel and supporting the provision of excellent facilities and amenities for leisure and culture to good health outcomes.

The CEO stated there was a need to respond quickly to the emerging structures and proposals to influence the role the Town Council, as a Local Authority, and the role the Town Council's Health and Wellbeing Partnership could play in shaping locality strategy and planning through community engagement, intelligence sharing and supporting local and cross Primary Care Network collaboration and delivery.

Cllr Pocock stated that the document was powerful and an exciting way forward. He suggested that private homecare providers also be brought in as partners. He also suggested that Community Plans could again be looked at for each Ward. The CEO confirmed that the Community Engagement Officer was already engaging with homecare providers with work on dementia and they could be invited to the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.



Cllr Cairns also recorded her thanks to Alison Seabrooke and praised the report. She confirmed that the Health and Wellbeing Partnership already strive to link care homes and the public sector together for community wraparound care.

Resolved to note the report and agree the approach on next steps as set out in the report.

84 Minutes of Committees

a) Amenities, Leisure and Community Services held on 18th November 2021

b) Amenities, Leisure and Community Services held on 13th January 2022

Cllr Pears reported that Committee had considered an application from FOLIO Sutton Coldfield for funding towards a revised, scaled down programme of activities for the proposed FOLIO Sutton Coldfield Shakespeare Festival. Committee recommended approval of £13,300, with an additional £6,650 approved pending confirmation from FOLIO Sutton Coldfield that the Natural Theatre Company performances would be free and available to a larger audience. Cllr Pears confirmed that FOLIO had provided the information requested and that FOLIO has confirmed that the Natural Theatre Company performances would be free and viewable by a larger audience.

Resolved to approve that the Summer Florals 2022 be purchased from Birmingham City Council and that the cost, advised by BCC as £68,776, be met from the Floral Displays budget.

Resolved to approve a Central Grant of £19,950 for FOLIO Sutton Coldfield.

c) Planning and Highways held on 11th January 2022

Resolved that the Wildflower Planting at a cost of £23,657 be approved from the Environmental Enhancements budget and that Birmingham City Council and its contractors are commissioned to deliver these works under the Town Council Financial Regulations 11.3.

85 Use of Chief Executive Officer's Delegated Powers

The CEO reported use of delegated powers to approve replacement of bins and benches adjacent to Walmley Close at a cost of £1,800. In addition delegated powers had been used, in consultation with the Leader, to approve replanting of 37 planters across Sutton Coldfield with autumn/spring bedding plants at a cost of £6,698, additional bedding planting at Vesey Gardens, Boddington Gardens and War Memorials at a costs of £7,219 and production and delivery of a Town Council Newsletter to be delivered to residents in February, at a cost of £9,791.

86 Account for Payment

Resolved to approve the accounts for payment, note the payments made using delegated powers and to appoint Cllrs Allan and S Ward to complete authorisation.

87 Date of the Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting on Tuesday 22nd February 2022, clashes with a meeting of Birmingham City Council. It was proposed that this meeting be rescheduled to Monday the 21st February 2022.

Resolved that the next meeting be scheduled on the 21st February 2022.



The meeting ended at 8:24pm

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